failed areas as well as early Rabi; use of fund under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, like, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Macro management in Agriculture (MMA) to create agriculture infrastructure and facilitate in taking up of specific crop strategy to achieve higher production.

**Objective of fertilizer subsidy**

†1678. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether objective of providing subsidy on fertilizers is to promote agricultural production;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether agricultural production has increased by 8.37 per cent and there has been growth of 6.92 per cent in production rate during 2001-2002 to 2007-2008;

(d) if not, the facts in this regard;

(e) whether it is also a fact that there has been increase of 214 per cent in subsidy amount during the said period; and

(f) if not, the facts in this regard and whether it is also a fact that the agricultural sector is not getting the advantage of subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Providing subsidy on fertilizers is one of the objectives to promote application of fertilizers to enhance agricultural production.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The foodgrain production during the period from 2001-02 to 2007-08 increased by about 8-42%. The per hectare foodgrain yield also increased from 1734 kg in 2001-02 to 1860 kg in 2007-08, the increase being about 7.27%.

(e) and (f) The increase in fertilizer subsidy has been about 241% during the period. The requirement of fertilizers subsidy during last few years has risen sharply, partially due to increase in consumption of fertilizers and mainly due to sharp increase in price of fertilizer inputs and finished fertilizers.

**Decline in production of foodgrains**

1679. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether kharif crops of rice, wheat and other foodgrains and pulses have dwindled considerably this year or is likely to fall short of estimates; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.